



BIOMASS 2009

Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels

Barbara J. Bramble

Senior Program Advisor for International Affairs

Clarify NWF Position:

***We support a long-term growth pattern to
"sustainable"***

next generation biofuels –

***one among many long-term strategies to
reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.***

Biofuels are promoted for many reasons:

- Energy security/independence from foreign sources
- Stabilize commodity prices and promote rural development
- Last and Least: Reduction of GHG emissions, and other pollutants.

*BUT BIOFUELS CAN'T DO ALL THAT AT THE SAME
TIME--*

- THE BENEFITS ARE NOT PRODUCED AUTOMATICALLY, OR FOR ALL BIOFUELS.
- THEREFORE THEY MUST BE PRODUCED UNDER SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS.

Trade Offs -

- **Rural Development/Poverty Reduction** - requires protection of small producers

vs

- **Significant Fuel Substitution** - requires massive incentives for large scale producers

- **High Production Per Acre** - Requires Use of Good Farm Land, Lots of Water

vs

- **Reduction of Food / Fuel Competition** - Requires use of Marginal Land/Wastes

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Ensuring that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability



The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

We are an international multi-stakeholder initiative developing principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels production that will be:

- **Simple, accessible** and implemented worldwide
- **Generic** to all crops
- **Adaptable** to new information
- **Efficient and cheap** to measure
- **In line with WTO rules**
(use ISEAL code)



How is the RSB organized?

- Founding **Steering Board** composed of international stakeholders from WWF, UNEP, Swiss and Dutch governments, Shell, BP, Toyota, TERI India, Mali Folkecenter, Petrobras, UNICA, my own organization, and others.
- **New governance structure** and open membership starting in 2009, with 'chambers' divided along the following lines: trade unions, small and large farmers, producers, financial institutions, petroleum and transportation industry, food security NGOs, indigenous people's groups, conservation NGOs, etc. Two members (one North, one South) from each chamber will be elected to a new Executive Standards Board.
- One **Secretariat** based at EPFL. Part-time staff in South Africa, full-time Americas Coordinator in the US.
- **Working Groups** by subject (GHG, ENV, SOC, etc.) open to any interested participant; they help develop content to present to the Board.

Stakeholder-driven

- Innovative **transparent standard-setting using BioenergyWiki.net**, to share background information and comments with other participants.
- 270 participants from international organisations, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions from 38 countries helped draft ‘Version Zero’.
- **Regional stakeholder meetings** held already in Brazil, South Africa, China, India, Mali, and Mozambique. Further outreach in Europe and North and South America planned for early 2009.



Version Zero - RSB Standard

	Direct	Indirect
National Law (especially land, labor, water rights)	✓	
Community Consultation (especially to determine land rights, social & environmental impact, idle land, resolve grievances)	✓	
Social – biofuels should benefit rural communities and workers	✓	
should not contribute to food insecurity	✓	✓
GHG - significantly better over lifecycle than fossil fuel	✓	✓
Environmental – conserve and protect soil, water, air	✓	
conserve and protect high conservation values	✓	✓
Technology – (esp. biotech) should be used responsibly and transparently, contribute to income or sustainability	✓	
Economic Efficiency - economically viable, continuous improvement		

Social Principles

- Legality – Biofuel production shall follow all local and applicable laws. (*principle #1*)
- Consultation – Biofuel projects shall be designed and operated to include all relevant stakeholders in a transparent and participatory fashion. (*principle #2*)
- Human and Labor Rights – Biofuel production shall not violate human or labor rights and shall ensure fair wages and well-being for workers. (*principle #4*)
- Rural and Social Development – Biofuel production shall contribute to the social and economic development of local communities. (*principle #5*)
- Land Rights – Biofuel production shall not violate formal or customary land rights. (*principle #12*)
- Food Security – Biofuel production shall not impair food security. (*principle #6*)

Environmental Principles

- Soil – Biofuel production shall promote practices that seek to improve soil health and minimize degradation. (*principle #8*)
- Water – Biofuel production shall not pollute or deplete water resources and shall not violate water rights (*principle #9*)
- Air – Air pollution from biofuel production and processing shall be minimized along the supply chain. (*principle #10*)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Biofuels shall contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing GHG emissions relative to fossil fuels. (*principle #3*)
- Conservation of Biodiversity - Biofuel production shall avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and areas of High Conservation Value. (*principle #7*)

Economic Principles

- Economic Efficiency – Biofuels shall be produced in the most cost-effective way and shall implement a business plan that reflects a commitment to economic viability. (*principle #11*)
- Technology – The use of technology must improve production efficiency and social and environmental performance in all stages of the biofuel value chain. (*principle #11*)
- Continuous Improvement – Biofuel production shall demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement in energy balance, productivity per hectare, and input use. (*principle #11*)

RSB Principles Will Address Indirect Impacts

Where macro factors are not in the control of individual producers

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Biofuels shall contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing GHS emissions relative to fossil fuels, **including indirect land use change.** (*principle #3*)
- Food Security – Biofuel production shall not impair food security. (*principle #6*)
- Conservation of Biodiversity - Biofuel production shall avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and areas of High Conservation Value. (*principle #7*)

Meta-standard concept



- Many certifications already exist or are under development for biofuel crops (palm, sugar, soy).
 - Most standards were created for the food industry, so they focus on on-farm sustainable agriculture, and not climate change or ‘macro’ effects (e.g. land use change and food security).
- To minimize verification burden, aim is to recognize other certifications as covering most elements of the RSB meta-standard, then add on information about GHG emissions and macro effects.

UK Meta-standard: Illustration

Environmental/ social principle	SAN/ RA	RSPO	LEAF	EUREP -GAP	SAI	FSC
Conservation of Carbon	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow
Conservation of Biodiversity	Qualifying standard				Red	
Soil conservation					Red	
Sustainable water use					Red	
Workers rights					Green	
Land rights					Red	

'Better' biofuels – the scorecard concept

- **Red line: Minimum social and environmental criteria for sustainable agriculture that all biofuels must meet**
- **Use a scorecard system to incent 'better' biofuels, i.e. those with:**
 - Good GHG reduction potential, including sequestering carbon in soil
 - Rural development potential
 - Less likely to have indirect impacts:
 - ✓ Encourage use of degraded/idle lands (but these need identification)
 - ✓ Use waste materials as feedstocks
 - ✓ Improve yields on existing lands (whilst minimizing environmental impacts)

Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels - Draft Scorecard Concept

Overall Energy and Greenhouse Gas Efficiency	Conservation of Natural Resources				Social Concerns		
Total score for product life-cycle (well-to-wheel)	biodiversity	soil health	air quality	water use	Food security	Working conditions	
Considerable reduction of ecol./ social footprint	Low GHG emissions, maximize carbon sequestration (e.g. low-till)	Biodiversity corridors	Restore degraded land	No sig. impact on air quality on farm or at processing facility	No sig. impact on local water quality or quantity	Use of degraded or idle land	Best-practice wages and working conditions
Small or no reduction on ecol./ social footprint	10-90% GHG emissions as compared to fossil fuel	Buffer zones	Erosion protection	Moderate impact on air quality	Moderate impact on local water quality, quantity		
No or negative impact on ecol./ social footprint	High N ₂ O emissions from fertilizers, conversion of high carbon-stock land	Deforestation., habitat encroachment.			Water pollution, significant reduction in water availability		Hazardous or illegal working conditions

Timeline

- 'Version Zero' published August, 2008
- Global stakeholder feedback gathered through spring of 2008, via regional meetings in Mozambique, Mali, Ethiopia, South Africa, Latin America (in partnership with IADB), USA, Europe, East Asia
- Transition to new governance structures and approve Version One by June 2009
- Encourage/foster crop-specific better practice definitions (e.g. jatropha)
- Develop generic indicators, benchmark against existing standards
- Collaborate with other partners to measure & mitigate indirect effects
- Coordinate pilot testing of draft standards in real supply chains in 2009



Contact

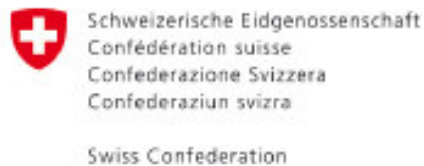


Secretariat:

rsb@epfl.ch

<http://EnergyCenter.epfl.ch/Biofuels>

E25 Supporters





Barbara J. Bramble
Senior Program Advisor for International Affairs
bramble@nwf.org